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U.S. Says MX 'Dense Pack' Won't Violate SALT Accord

By DAVID WOOD, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—The Reagan Administration's proposal to deploy the MX missile in a "dense pack" basing mode does not violate any terms of the two strategic arms limitation treaties as charged by the Soviet Union, a senior Pentagon official said Friday.

"They're wrong and we're right," Richard N. Perle, assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, said in reaction to Soviet charges, published Thursday, that the Reagan plan "runs counter" to provisions of the agreements between the two superpowers banning any additional silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Perle told reporters at a Pentagon briefing that the Soviet Union already has systematically exploited loopholes in the two agreements and suggested that Moscow may ever have violated a key under-

standing in the 1979 SALT II accord.

Questions about whether the dense pack scheme violates existing arms agreements will be a central element in the forthcoming congressional debate over whether to vote down President Reagan's decision on deploying the MX. Disarmament specialists appear evenly divided on that issue, which hinges on technical interpretations of the often vaguely worded agreement texts.

The SALT II agreement, signed by Presidents Leonid I. Brezhnev and Jimmy Carter but never ratified by the U.S. Senate, prohibits the construction of "additional fixed ICBM launchers"—not the "additional silos" referred to by the Pravda Commentary Thursday.

Under the Administration's plan to install 100 MX missiles in 100 silos near Cheyenne, Wyo., the Unit-

ed States is not building new fixed launchers, Perle said, since each MX missile and its launch cannister are self-contained and could be made "mobile" by lifting it out of a silo and putting it somewhere else. Neither SALT agreement puts any limit or prohibition on mobile missiles.

"In fact, these (dense pack) launchers are not fixed," Perle said. "The hole in the ground is fixed, but the launcher moves with the missile."

Perle also argued that it is "absurd" for Moscow to assert that dense pack placement violates the arms agreements, because it was only the Soviets' exploitation of loopholes in the two accords that enabled them to deploy hundreds of heavier and more accurate ICBMs. This Soviet buildup was cited by the Administration as the reason for building the MX missile in the first place.

U.S. Insistence Cited

Perle said it was the United States that insisted on provisions in the arms agreements prohibiting construction of new fixed ICBM silos, because at that time the Soviets were installing new missiles at the rate about one per week.

"Unhappily," Perle said, "they found loopholes and skillfully exploited them. . . . The limit on new launchers failed to achieve its purpose and the Soviets went right on deploying thousands of new warheads on their ICBMs."

For example, Perle cited the replacement of the single-warhead SS-11 Soviet missile by the highly-accurate six-warhead SS-19, a change which he said required extensive modification and enlargement of the Soviet missile silos. The Soviets were able to claim that the silo modification was allowed because the treaty language on silo modification was vague, Perle said.

"There is a long history of the Soviets taking actions which were contrary to our expectations," he said.

"To suggest now that the language (of the agreements) prevents us from responding to the Soviet buildup would make an absurdity of the whole SALT process," he added.

Perle suggested that the Soviets have violated or are about to violate an understanding in the 1979 agreement that Moscow would not deploy a new missile, the SS-16, which is similar to the U.S. Minuteman ICBM.

"There is some considerable evidence of activity that could have been in violation of the understanding not to deploy them," Perle said. He declined to be more specific except to say that the activity to which he referred might be inconsistent with the U.S.-Soviet understanding.

Most Critical Comment

While some strategic arms specialists have charged the Soviet Union with specifically violating the terms of the two accords, the Reagan Administration has not publicly done so. Perle's statement appeared to be the most critical that any Administration spokesman has made without actually charging that a violation has occurred.

Perle, who will travel to Brussels next week with Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger for a series of North Atlantic Treaty Organization meetings, also denied reports that the Reagan Administration has asked West Germany to accept additional intermediate-range missiles and has been rebuffed.

According to recent press reports from Bonn, the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl had refused a U.S. request that the number of Pershing 2 missiles to be installed in West Germany beginning in December, 1983, be doubled.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Security tight for Reagan trip to Brazil cities

By Brian Nicholson
United Press International

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Security will be so tight for President Reagan on his 50-hour visit to Brazil that his closest view of the Brazilian people may be only over the heads of federal police guards.

Even the guards will stand behind an inner ring of White House security staff during the visit, which begins tomorrow.

"I don't want to give any specific details, especially not when we're dealing with a president who has already been shot once," a U.S. diplomat in Brasilia said.

And a member of the advance logistics team setting up the Sao Paulo visit politely referred all security questions to Washington.

But from the dribbles of information scraped together by the Brazilian press and leaked by bemused

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Brazilian bureaucrats, the White House plans to screen Reagan from any possible threat.

"For security reasons the American agents asked the Brazilian government to eliminate from the program all points where there could be any public concentration," the *Journal do Brasil* newspaper reported.

"Ronald Reagan will not be able to meet the people at any moment. He will use rapid-access entrances and move about in a bulletproof car."

Various reports said that Reagan's immediate security would be in the hands of 30 of his agents. Brazilian security will work alongside Reagan men in a second ring, and Brazilian agents will form an outer ring of security guards.

In Brasilia, Reagan's first stop, security advisers reportedly have resisted allowing the President to walk up the front entrance ramp of the presidential palace to meet his host Gen. Joao Baptista Figueiredo because he might be exposed to a long-range rifle shot.

In Sao Paulo, a squad of security technicians swarmed over the governor's palace last week where Reagan will spend just four hours.